



December 4, 2009

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-24-2009

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – NOVEMBER 2009

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	289
b. Pilots in Training	0
c. Tugs	31
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	35.57	55	25
Oceangoing Transits	35.90	44	28
Canal Waters Time (hours)	22.26	29.96	14.87
In-Transit Time (hours)	9.93	14.06	7.94

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' Beam	393	13.10	36.49%
Vessels 91' Beam and Over	684	22.80	63.51%
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1077	35.90	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	588	19.60	54.60%
Vessels 900' Length and Over	116	3.87	10.77%

Note: For the purpose of this report, the term "oceangoing transits" is equivalent to the number of locomotive transits.

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Large Vessels (beam 91' and over)	510*	232* ¹	45.49%
Regular Vessels (beam < 91')	240*	71* ¹	29.58%

*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots
¹ Includes booked transits only

3. The following page provides the scheduled locks maintenance work and other items of interest to the shipping community.
4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on December 30, 2009.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benitez
Executive Vice President of Operations

ONE YEAR SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK						
Dates	Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Transit Capacity¹	Status
Sept. 8-17, 2010	10			Centerwall Culvert	29-33	Tentative

¹The normal transit capacity of the Panama Canal is 38-40 vessels each day, depending on vessel mix and other factors. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, as indicated in the above table. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. Normally, during these periods, the Panama Canal Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. Whenever a set of locks requires a major outage of one of its two lanes for dry chamber inspection, miter gate repairs, tow track work or other major maintenance/improvement projects, advantage may be taken of this requirement to perform simultaneous single lane outages for additional maintenance at other locks.

PANAMA CANAL CEO RECEIVES MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

ALEMÁN ZUBIETA AWARDED “INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE” FOR “ENSURING THE INTEGRITY, SMOOTH OPERATION AND UNINTERRUPTED FLOW OF TRAFFIC” AT THE CANAL AND “OVERSEEING ITS EXPANSION”

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 1, 2009 – For steadily steering the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) toward a business oriented enterprise focused on customer service, and for successfully initiating the historic expansion of the waterway, ACP Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta received the 2008 “International Maritime Prize” from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) – the United Nations agency for shipping and maritime issues. Secretary-General of the IMO, Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, presented the award to Mr. Alemán Zubieta during a special ceremony held November 30th at the IMO headquarters in London, the United Kingdom.

“In 1998, Mr. Alemán Zubieta was appointed Administrator of the [Panama Canal] Commission’s eventual successor body, the Panama Canal Authority, a role which he performed simultaneously with that of Administrator of the Commission for two years,” said IMO Secretary General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos during his remarks. “He has led the Authority since 2000.”

“In this role, Mr. Alemán Zubieta has the heavy responsibility of ensuring the integrity, smooth operation and uninterrupted flow of traffic through one of the world’s busiest and most strategic shipping lanes and, nowadays, of also overseeing its expansion – a major decision indeed, necessitated by increasing traffic demand and an overwhelmingly endorsed mandate by a national referendum held in October 2006. Under his watch, the provisions of important IMO instruments, such as the SOLAS, Load Lines and MARPOL Conventions and the Collision Regulations, are implemented by through traffic, having been incorporated into the Authority’s regulations, even though, as an internal body of water, the Panama Canal is not subject to them,” Mr. Mitropoulos added.

“I accept this award on behalf of the more than 9,000 employees of the Panama Canal Authority their hard work, professionalism and commitment has enabled the Panama Canal to succeed in making the changes and adjustments necessary to provide a world class service to global commerce. Every day I continue to be inspired by their work and contributions to our country and to the maritime industry,” said Mr. Alemán Zubieta. “Thank you as well to the members of the IMO Council for their acknowledgement of our work and service to the shipping and maritime industry,” added Mr. Alemán Zubieta.

The IMO, comprised of 169 Member States and three Associate Members, is charged with developing and maintaining a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping. The “International Maritime Prize” is considered the industry’s most prestigious award, presented annually to an individual or organization judged to have made the most significant contribution to the work and objectives of the IMO. During its 102nd session held July 6, 2009, the IMO Council comprised of representatives from 40 countries, voted to award the prize to Mr. Alemán Zubieta, nominated by the Government of Panama for his successful management of the Canal and its Expansion Program.

“This latest award given to Mr. Alemán Zubieta is a testament to his visionary leadership and tireless dedication to the Canal, to the people of Panama and the international maritime/shipping community,” said ACP Advisory Board Chairman and former IMO Secretary-General William O’Neil. “As a result of his efforts, the Canal has contributed to our industry’s continued progress and that of our future as expansion will positively change the face of shipping as we know it.”

Mr. Alemán Zubieta further said: “This is a proud moment for my country and for me personally. I accept this award on behalf of all Panamanians, who continue to value and support our country’s important role as a key link in the great, vital chain of world commerce.”

Mr. Alemán Zubieta has enjoyed a long and distinguished career at the Panama Canal. He first served as the administrator of the Panama Canal Commission under the U.S. government. He then became the first administrator of the ACP, which eventually became the autonomous Panamanian government agency in charge of the waterway after the U.S. turnover of the Canal December 31, 1999. Under Mr. Aleman Zubieta’s leadership, the ACP successfully shifted its operations from a profit-neutral utility to a market-oriented business model. Mr. Alemán Zubieta oversees the Canal’s \$5.25 billion Expansion Program, which will double the waterway’s capacity, allowing more traffic and transiting of longer and wider ships.

To date, expansion is on track, on budget, and has received numerous accolades from the industry.